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# Some Indigenous Peoples Day events strike conciliatory tone amid Trump's focus on Columbus

By **TERRY TANG**  
**Associated Press**

From Seattle to Baltimore, many Americans were celebrating Monday as Indigenous Peoples Day, determined to see it as a triumph of perseverance over centuries marked by trauma. Tribal nations and communities gathered at powwows, markets and musical performances among other joyful events to honor their culture and their history.

Some states and cities have for decades now made the second Monday in October about honoring Native Americans alongside the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, for whom the federal holiday was declared in 1937. And President Joe Biden signed a declaration recognizing both days.

President Donald Trump, keeping a vow he made in April, reversed that last week, pledging "to reclaim his extraordinary legacy of faith, courage, perseverance, and virtue from the left-wing arsonists who have sought to destroy his name and dishonor his memory." Trump's tribute to the explorer whose planting of the Spanish flag in the Caribbean in 1492 opened the Americas to "the ultimate triumph of Western civilization" — along with centuries of disease, slavery and conquest that ravaged Indigenous civilizations — is drawing criticism and resignation from Native



People watch the sun rise during a gathering on Indigenous Peoples Day on Alcatraz Island on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, in San Francisco.

**Associated Press**

Americans.

But some advocates say his posture is hardly unique among previous presidents, and they won't be dissuaded from seeking to build consensus for tribal goals.

## Indigenous Peoples Day is about inclusion, not exclusion

This is the first year Indigenous Peoples Day has state recognition in Montana, after a decade-long campaign in the state that is home to 12 federally recognized tribes. What changed? Democratic State Sen. Shane Morigeau, a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai

Tribes who sponsored the legislation, framed it not as a holiday that would eliminate Columbus Day, but as a day of "inclusivity, healing and bringing people together." "It's just not an us-versus-them type of day. It's a day that brings everyone together," Morigeau said. "And if you don't want to go check that out and you want to go do something else and celebrate the other day, you can do that too and our feelings won't be hurt."

What matters is that both Native and non-Native people can go to an event or do some self-reflection or even "go down to the river

and go fishing for the day," Morigeau said.

After the protests over the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016 and the racial injustice protests in 2020, more people and institutions questioned the narrative of Columbus as only an intrepid sailor and explorer, arguing for a more complete understanding of his historical impact. Trump's proclamation lambastes this as the villainizing of a "true American hero."

"Outrageously, in recent years, Christopher Columbus has been a prime target of a vicious and merciless campaign to erase our history, slander our heroes,

and attack our heritage," Trump's proclamation reads. "Left-wing radicals toppled his statues, vandalized his monuments, tarnished his character, and sought to exile him from our public spaces."

Chase Iron Eyes, director of the Lakota People's Law Project, said it's Trump who is making this a culture war, when the day should be about learning all aspects of history around Columbus. "If Trump wants to celebrate the good things about Christopher Columbus then let him. Let him do that. But also tell the truth about him and let us also celebrate Indigenous peoples' accomplishments," said Iron Eyes, who is of the Lakota Sioux Nation. "We don't teach that in America's schools."

## Soldiers at Wounded Knee keeping medals

The National Congress of American Indians found it profoundly troubling when Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced last month that the soldiers who killed more than 250 men, women and children in the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre would retain their military honors after a review launched under the Biden administration.

Hegseth called it part of his effort to root out "woke" thinking.

Iron Eyes, who lives on Pine Ridge, called it hurtful. □



Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards talks at the governor's mansion in Baton Rouge, La., Dec. 7, 2023.

**Associated Press**

By **SARA CLINE**  
**Associated Press**

**BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)** — After much specula-

tion, John Bel Edwards — a Democrat who defied near-universal predictions by being elected governor twice

## Former Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, says he will not run for US Senate

in the reliably red state of Louisiana — announced on Monday that he will not run for the U.S. Senate.

The announcement ended months of guessing whether the former governor would enter the 2026 race, hurting Democratic hopes of finding the right candidate to flip Louisiana's Republican seat, currently held by U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy. But in a post on the social platform X, Edwards said that after "careful consideration" he decided that "now is not the right time to re-enter public office."

"After eight years in the Governor's Office, and with two grandbabies at home, we're committed to being the best Papa and Nonna we can be," Edwards, 59, said about himself and his wife.

Edwards, who vacated the governor's office in 2024 due to term limits, said that during next year's Senate election he hopes voters "will reject the extremist politicians that have paralyzed progress in this nation."

"I'm going to do all I can as a private citizen to advance that cause," Edwards con-

cluded. Among the Republicans so far challenging Cassidy are State Treasurer John Fleming, state Sen. Blake Miguez and Public Service Commissioner Eric Skrmetta. President Donald Trump and Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry have also reportedly discussed the possibility of a challenge from U.S. Rep. Julia Letlow.

It is unclear what Democrat will step up to run, in what is sure to be an uphill battle in a state where voters overwhelmingly backed Trump in the last three presidential votes. □



# Government shutdown could be the longest ever, Speaker Johnson warns

By LISA MASCARO  
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Speaker Mike Johnson predicted Monday the federal government shutdown may become the longest in history, saying he “won’t negotiate” with Democrats until they hit pause on their health care demands and reopen.

Standing alone at the Capitol on the 13th day of the shutdown, the speaker said he was unaware of the details of the thousands of federal workers being fired by the Trump administration. It’s a highly unusual mass layoff widely seen as way to seize on the shutdown to reduce the scope of government. Vice President JD Vance has warned of “painful” cuts ahead, even as employee unions sue.

“We’re barreling toward one of the longest shutdowns in American history,” Johnson of Louisiana said. With no endgame in sight, the shutdown is expected to roll on for the unforeseeable future.

The closure has halted routine government operations, shuttered Smithsonian museums and other landmark cultural institutions



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., praises President Donald Trump’s peacemaking efforts leading to a ceasefire pausing two years of war in the Gaza Strip, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025.

Associated Press

and left airports scrambling with flight disruptions, all injecting more uncertainty into an already precarious economy.

The House is out of legislative session, with Johnson refusing to recall lawmakers back to Washington, while the Senate, closed Monday for the federal holiday, will return to work Tuesday. But senators are stuck in a cul-de-sac of failed votes as Democrats refuse to relent on their health care

demands.

Johnson thanked President Donald Trump for ensuring military personnel are paid this week, which removed one main pressure point that may have pushed the parties to the negotiating table.

At its core, the shutdown is a debate over health care policy and particularly the Affordable Care Act subsidies that are expiring for millions of Americans who rely on government aid to

purchase their own health insurance policies on the Obamacare exchanges. Democrats demand the subsidies be extended, Republicans argue the issue can be dealt with later.

With Congress and the White House stalemated, some are eyeing the end of the month as the next potential deadline to reopen government.

That’s when open enrollment begins, Nov. 1, for the health program at issue,

and Americans will face the prospect of skyrocketing insurance premiums. The Kaiser Family Foundation has estimated that monthly costs would double if Congress fails to renew the subsidy payments that expire Dec. 31.

It’s also when government workers on monthly pay schedules, including thousands of House aides, will go without paychecks.

The health care debate has dogged Congress ever since the Affordable Care Act became law under then-President Barack Obama in 2010.

The country went through a 16-day government shutdown during the Obama presidency when Republicans tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act 2013.

Trump tried to “repeal and replace” the law, commonly known as Obamacare, during his first term, in 2017, with a Republican majority in the House and Senate. That effort failed when then-Sen. John McCain memorably voted a thumbs down on the plan.

With 24 million now enrolled in Obamacare, a record, Johnson said Monday that Republicans are unlikely to go that route again, noting he still has “PTSD” from that botched moment. □

## Naked bike riders demonstrate against federal troops in ‘quintessentially Portland’ protest

By JENNY KANE and CHRISTOPHER WEBER  
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Protesters rallying against the Trump administration



Federal agents stand and look over protesters during the Naked Bike Ride protest at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, in Portland, Ore. Associated Press

in Portland put the city’s quirky and irreverent reputation on display Sunday by pedaling through the streets wearing absolutely nothing or close to it in an “emergency” edition of the annual World Naked Bike Ride.

Crowds that have gathered daily and nightly outside the immigration facility in Oregon’s largest city in recent days have embraced the absurd, donning inflatable frog, unicorn, axolotl and banana costumes as they face off with federal law enforcement who often deploy tear gas and pepper balls. The bike ride is an annual tradition that usually hap-

pens in the summer, but organizers of this weekend’s hastily called event said another nude ride was necessary to speak out against President Donald Trump’s attempts to mobilize the National Guard to quell protests.

Rider Janene King called the nude ride a “quintessentially Portland way to protest.”

The 51-year-old was naked except for wool socks, a wig and a hat. She sipped hot tea and said she was unbothered by the steady rain and temperatures in the mid-50s (about 12 Celsius).

“We definitely do not want troops coming into our

city,” King said.

Bike riders made their way through the streets and to the city’s U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building. Authorities there ordered people to stay out of the street and protest only on sidewalks or risk being arrested.

The city is awaiting the ruling of an appeals court panel on whether Trump can send out the federalized troops after a federal judge on Oct. 5 ordered a temporary hold on deployment. “Joy is a form of protest. Being together with mutual respect and kindness is a form of protest,” the ride’s organizers said on Instagram. □



# California governor signs law to protect kids from the risks of AI chatbots

By **TRÂN NGUYEN**

**Associated Press**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** —

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday signed legislation to regulate artificial intelligence chatbots and protect children and teens from the potential dangers of the technology.

The law requires platforms to remind users they are interacting with a chatbot and not a human. The notification would pop up every three hours for users who are minors. Companies will also have to maintain a protocol to prevent self-harm content and refer users to crisis service providers if they expressed suicidal ideation.

Newsom, who has four children under 18, said California has a responsibility to protect kids and teens who are increasingly turning to AI chatbots for everything from homework help to emotional support and personal advice.

"Emerging technology like chatbots and social media can inspire, educate, and connect — but without real guardrails, technology can also exploit, mislead, and endanger our kids," the Democrat said. "We've seen some truly horrific and tragic examples of young people harmed by unregu-



**Teacher Donnie Piercey goes over the results of a writing assignment called "Find the Bot" during his class at Stonewall Elementary in Lexington, Ky., Feb. 6, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

lated tech, and we won't stand by while companies continue without necessary limits and accountability." California is among several states that tried this year to address concerns surrounding chatbots used by kids for companionship. Safety concerns around the technology exploded following reports and lawsuits saying chatbots made by Meta, OpenAI and others engaged with young users in highly sexualized conver-

sations and, in some cases, coached them to take their own lives.

The legislation was among a slew of AI bills introduced by California lawmakers this year to rein in the homegrown industry that is rapidly evolving with little oversight. Tech companies and their coalitions, in response, spent at least \$2.5 million in the first six months of the session lobbying against the measures, according to advocacy group Tech

Oversight California. Tech companies and leaders in recent months also announced they are launching pro-AI super PACs to fight state and federal oversight.

But children's advocacy groups that fought for a law with stronger protections which Newsom hadn't yet signed or vetoed criticized the new legislation.

It "provides minimal protections for children and families," said James Steyer,

founder and CEO of Common Sense Media.

"This legislation was heavily watered down after major Big Tech industry pressure," he said, calling it "basically a Nothing Burger."

California Attorney General Rob Bonta in September told OpenAI he has "serious concerns" with its flagship chatbot, OpenAI, for children and teens. The Federal Trade Commission also launched an inquiry last month into several AI companies about the potential risks for children when they use chatbots as companions.

Research by a watchdog group says chatbots have been shown to give kids dangerous advice about topics such as drugs, alcohol and eating disorders. The mother of a teenage boy in Florida who died by suicide after developing what she described as an emotionally and sexually abusive relationship with a chatbot has filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Character.AI. And the parents of 16-year-old Adam Raine recently sued OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman, alleging that ChatGPT coached the California boy in planning and taking his own life earlier this year. □

# California engineer wins pumpkin contest with 2,346-pound gourd

**HALF MOON BAY, Calif.**

**(AP)** — A California engineer and gardening enthusiast won the top prize at an annual pumpkin-weighing contest in Northern California after growing a giant jack-o'-lantern gourd weighing 2,346 pounds (1,064 kilograms).

Brandon Dawson, of Santa Rosa, California, clinched the victory Monday at the 52nd World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco.

Dawson pumped his arms in the air and sat his two children on top of the giant pumpkin roughly the same weight as a small sedan or a large bison after being crowned this year's winner.

"My mind is kind of racing because I was in this position last year when I lost by 6 pounds (3 kilograms)," he said in an interview.

Dawson, a manufacturing engineer at electric vehicle maker Rivian Automotive, said he has been growing massive pumpkins for five

years. Precision skills acquired at his job helped him with the right watering and sunlight to help his gourd grow, he said.

He said he enjoys getting his children involved in the process.

"We like to spend time out in the patch and watch the thing grow," Dawson said about his 2-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter.

"My 4-year-old now can really pay attention to the growing process," especially since the giant pumpkins can grow by 50 to 70 pounds (23 to 32 kilograms) a day, he added.

The pumpkin champ won a \$20,000 prize for growing the biggest pumpkin.

Dawson's pumpkin was the

runner up in last year's contest at Half Moon Bay when the winning gourd grown by Minnesota horticulture teacher Travis Gienger came in at 2,471 pounds (1,121 kilograms).

Gienger, of Anoka, Minnesota, set a world record at the California contest in 2023 for the heaviest pumpkin when his giant jack-o'-lantern gourd weighed 2,749 pounds (1,247 kilograms). Gienger's pumpkin was damaged earlier this season and he couldn't enter this year's contest in California.

Two brothers in England earlier this month broke Gienger's record with a gourd that weighed 2,819 pounds (1,278kg). □



**Brandon Dawson, left, celebrates after winning the Safeway 52nd annual World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, Calif., Monday, Oct. 13, 2025.**

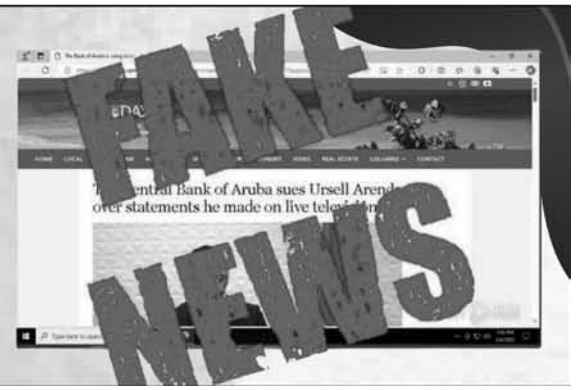
**Associated Press**



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## Trump urges leaders to put 'old feuds' aside as he calls for a new era of harmony in the Middle East

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and  
CHRIS MEGERIAN

Associated Press

SHARM EL SHEIKH, Egypt  
(AP) — President Donald

Trump called for a new era of harmony in the Middle East on Monday during a global summit on Gaza's future, trying to advance broader peace in the region after visiting Israel to celebrate a U.S.-brokered ceasefire with Hamas.

"We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put the old feuds and bitter hatreds behind us," Trump said, and he urged leaders "to declare that our future will not be ruled by the fights of generations past."

The whirlwind trip, which included the summit in Egypt and a speech at the Knesset in Jerusalem earlier in the day, comes at a fragile moment of hope for ending two years of war between Israel and Hamas.

"Everybody said it's not possible to do. And it's going to happen. And it is happening before your very eyes," Trump said alongside Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.

Nearly three dozen countries, including some from Europe and the Middle East, were represented at the summit. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was invited but declined, with his office saying it was too close to a Jewish holiday.

Trump, el-Sissi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani signed a document that Trump said would lay the groundwork for Gaza's future. However, a copy was not made public.

Despite unanswered questions about next steps in the Palestinian enclave, which



President Donald Trump and other world leaders pose for a photo during a summit to support ending the more than two-year Israel-Hamas war in Gaza after a breakthrough ceasefire deal, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Associated Press

has been devastated during the conflict, Trump is determined to seize an opportunity to chase an elusive regional harmony.

He expressed a similar sense of finality about the Israel-Hamas war in his speech at the Knesset, which welcomed him as a hero.

"You've won," he told Israeli lawmakers. "Now it is time to translate these victories against terrorists on the battlefield into the ultimate prize of peace and prosperity for the entire Middle East."

Trump promised to help rebuild Gaza, and he urged Palestinians to "turn forever from the path of terror and violence."

"After tremendous pain and death and hardship," he said, "now is the time to concentrate on building their people up instead of trying to tear Israel down."

Trump even made a gesture to Iran, where he bombed three nuclear sites

during the country's brief war with Israel earlier this year, by saying "the hand of friendship and cooperation is always open."

### Trump's whirlwind trip

Trump arrived in Egypt hours late because speeches at the Knesset continued longer than expected.

"They might not be there by the time I get there, but we'll give it a shot," Trump joked after needling Israeli leaders for talking so much. Twenty hostages were released Monday as part of an agreement intended to end the war that began on Oct. 7, 2023, with an attack by Hamas-led militants. Trump talked with some of their families at the Knesset. "Your name will be remembered to generations," a woman told him.

Israeli lawmakers chanted Trump's name and gave him standing ovation after standing ovation. Some people in the audience wore red hats that re-

sembled his "Make America Great Again" caps, although these versions said "Trump, The Peace President."

Netanyahu hailed Trump as "the greatest friend Israel has ever had in the White House," and he promised to work with him going forward.

"Mr. President, you are committed to this peace. I am committed to this peace," he said. "And together, Mr. President, we will achieve this peace."

Trump, in an unexpected detour during his speech, called on the Israeli president to pardon Netanyahu, whom he described as "one of the greatest" war-time leaders.

Netanyahu faces corruption charges, although several hearings have been postponed during the conflict with Hamas.

The Republican president also used the opportunity to settle political scores

and thank his supporters, criticizing Democratic predecessors and praising a top donor, Miriam Adelson, in the audience.

### Trump pushes to reshape the region

The moment remains fragile, with Israel and Hamas still in the early stages of implementing the first phase of Trump's plan.

The first phase of the ceasefire agreement calls for the release of the final hostages held by Hamas; the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel; a surge of humanitarian aid to Gaza; and a partial pull-back by Israeli forces from Gaza's main cities.

Trump has said there's a window to reshape the region and reset long-fraught relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"The war is over, OK?" Trump told reporters traveling with him aboard Air Force One. "I think people are tired of it," he said, emphasizing that he believed the ceasefire would hold because of that.

He said the chance of peace was enabled by his Republican administration's support of Israel's decimation of Iranian proxies, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. The White House said momentum is also building because Arab and Muslim states are demonstrating a renewed focus on resolving the broader, decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict and, in some cases, deepening relations with the United States.

In February, Trump had predicted that Gaza could be redeveloped into what he called "the Riviera of the Middle East." But on Sunday aboard Air Force One, he was more circumspect. □



# Pakistan and Afghanistan border closure extends into second day after deadly clashes

By RIAZ KHAN

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)

— The closure of border crossings for bilateral trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan entered a second day Monday after deadly weekend clashes between the countries spiked tensions and left hundreds of people stranded, officials said.

The fighting began Saturday night, when Afghan forces struck multiple Pakistani military posts. Afghanistan officials claimed to have killed 58 Pakistani soldiers in response to what they said were repeated violations of Afghan territory and air-space.

Pakistan's military gave lower figures, saying it lost 23 soldiers and killed more than 200 "Taliban and affiliated terrorists" during retaliatory fire along the border. Foreign governments, including Saudi Arabia, urged restraint. A ceasefire appeared to be holding. Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif, the country's powerful army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, and other officials attended a mass funeral for the killed soldiers in the



Drivers sleep under a truck loaded with goods for Afghanistan park along a highway following border closed due to Afghan and Pakistani forces exchange cross border firing, in Jamrud, in the district Khyber, Pakistan, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025.

garrison city of Rawalpindi on Monday, according to a military statement.

Asif said the people of Pakistan were "indebted to the ultimate sacrifice of these heroes who laid down their lives while defending the territorial integrity of Pakistan against the cowardly and treacherous aggression of the Taliban regime and Indian sponsored terrorist

proxies operating from inside Afghan soil," according to the statement.

The statement also quoted him as saying that the "armed forces of Pakistan remain resolute to thwart any aggression and conspiracy against Pakistan with full support of the nation."

Authorities said no new exchange of fire had been reported since Sunday along

the 2,611-kilometer (1,622-mile) long border known as the Durand Line, which Afghanistan has never recognized.

In Afghanistan, Abidullah Uqab, a spokesperson for the border police, confirmed that all the border crossings with Pakistan remained shut for trade and movement of people on Monday.

Associated Press

It was not clear when the border might reopen.

Though the southwestern Chaman border crossing was closed for trade, authorities briefly allowed about 1,500 Afghan nationals stranded there since Sunday to return home on foot, government officer Imtiaz Ali said.

A key northwestern crossing in Torkham, Pakistan, remained closed Monday to all travel and trade. The closure was confirmed by Mujib Ullah, a representative for local traders.

Afghan refugees, including many who were waiting to leave Pakistan because of a crackdown on foreigners living in the country illegally, said they had been waiting at the Torkham crossing since Sunday.

Gul Rahman, a refugee, said he waited through Sunday at Torkham before returning with his family to the northwestern city of Peshawar.

"Hundreds of others people like me have moved to nearby areas or coming back to Peshawar," he said, adding that he will wait there for Torkham to reopen. □

## Sarkozy informed of when and where to report to prison for Libya campaign finance scheme

PARIS (AP) — France's financial prosecution office informed former French President Nicolas Sarkozy

on Monday which prison to report to and when, pending his appeal after being sentenced to five years for

criminal conspiracy involving the use of funds from Libya to finance his winning 2007 campaign. The details were not immediately made public.

Sarkozy, the first ex-president in modern French history to be imprisoned, has maintained his innocence and has protested the decision to be put behind bars while waiting for the result of his appeal. Once jailed, the 70-year-old will be able to file a release request to the appeals court. Judges will then have up to two months to process the request.

The National Financial Prosecutor's office, or PNF, told Sarkozy the specifics of his detention during

a brief formal meeting on Monday afternoon. Sarkozy left the courthouse shortly afterward.

Before the hearing, Bérénice Dinh, the PNF's general secretary and spokesperson, said Sarkozy would be told "the date, the place and the hour he has to be there."

The PNF also said he would not be going to prison on Monday and that it would not make that information public, to spare Sarkozy the ordeal of being filmed at the start of his detention. While long retired from active politics, Sarkozy remains an influential figure in conservative circles. He served as president from 2007 to 2012 and was previ-

ously convicted in another corruption case, but hasn't had to serve jail time.

For safety reasons, Sarkozy is expected to be held under conditions reserved for high-profile inmates, possibly in a special "VIP area" of La Santé prison in Paris, where some of France's most notorious criminals have been imprisoned.

Sarkozy was handed the five-year sentence on Sept. 25 in a sprawling legal case after a decade of investigation. The Paris court said the prison sentence was effective immediately instead of suspending it pending appeal, citing "the seriousness of the disruption to public order caused by the offense." □



Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy leaves after a Paris court sentenced him to 5 years after finding him guilty of criminal conspiracy in an alleged scheme to finance his 2007 campaign with funds from Libya, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025 in Paris.

Associated Press



## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

### **Picuda, *Sphyrna barracuda*, Greater Barracuda**

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is *Sphyrna barracuda*. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called



"ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names

vary according to size.

### **Description**

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw

is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

### **In Aruba:**

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)— **Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.**

### **Sweet potato**

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat

too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is



time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

### **Pomegranate**

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees

produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits

for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: **Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly)** by Dinah Veeris





## Paseo Herencia; An exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



**NOORD — Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.**

### Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

### Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks, indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

### VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

### Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Sunday to Thursday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly watershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with delightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier. For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at [www.paseoherencia.com](http://www.paseoherencia.com). □







## Your Trusted Property Management Partner

Casago<sup>Aruba</sup>

### Monumentfund Aruba informs that The California Lighthouse is temporarily closed for maintenance work

(Oranjestad)—Starting Monday, October 13th, until the end of 2025, the California Lighthouse will be closed to the public. The reasoning behind this is that the lighthouse is due for a major maintenance.

Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA) is the owner of the lighthouse and operates under a maintenance plan in which each year, different monuments belonging to the foundation receive upkeep.

Recently, work was completed on the Casita Geel on Weststraat, and now it will continue with the California Lighthouse.

Due to the lighthouse's location and its daily use, it is one of the monuments that requires a lot of maintenance.

The work will be carried out by GPS Construction and is expected to last approximately two and a half months.

Among other things, repairs will be made to the top and the walls, and the interior and exterior of the lighthouse will be completely painted.

SMFA thanks Experitours and the general public for their understanding and cooperation during the period that the lighthouse will be closed. □



### Birds of Aruba: Soaring through the blue skies

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.

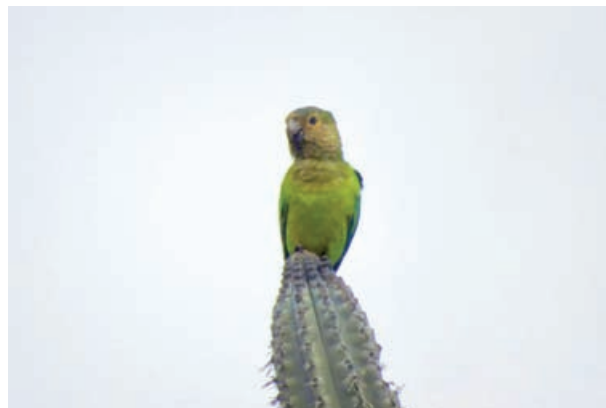
Trupial



Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Troupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Prikichi (parakeet)

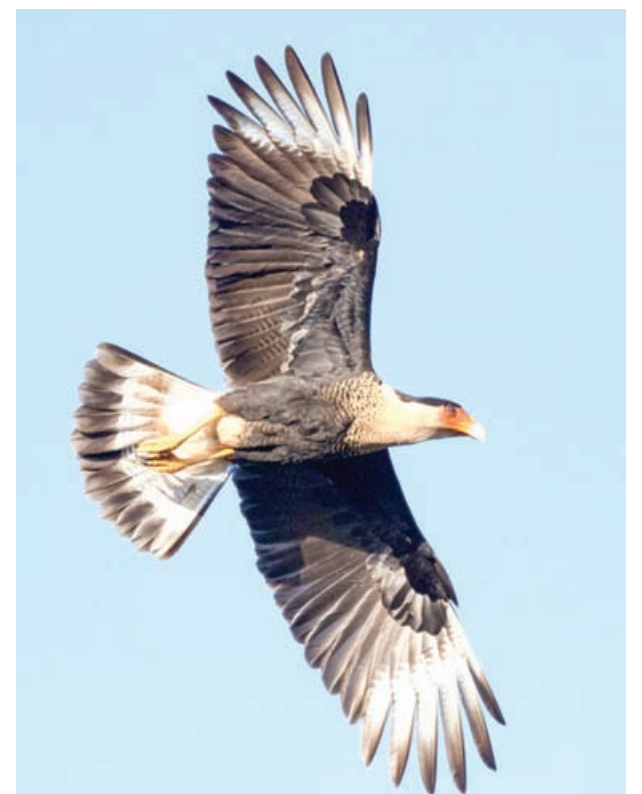


The Brown-throated Prikichi (*Aratinga pertinax*) became the national bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial, often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Warawara

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck,



orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and produces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife. By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature. □

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation



## Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

### Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

Woman in Quadirikiri Cave, Arikok National Park, Aruba

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

### Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

### The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐





## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

### Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were



able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Ana-boio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and it's meaning.

During the second world

war and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

### Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.



The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.□

## Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

**(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.**

### SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused

by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

### SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the north-west coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

### Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-foot ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement



freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nick name Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully

overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature.□



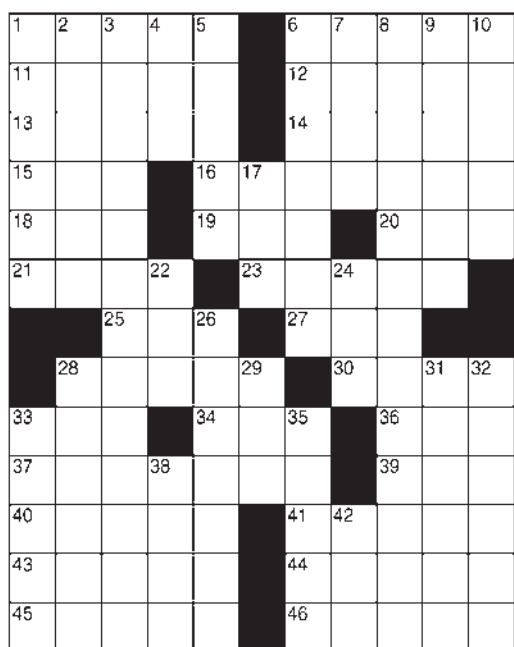
# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Grayish brown
  - 1 Pilgrimage site
  - 6 Chip choice
  - 11 Earthy color
  - 12 Hawke of film
  - 13 Does in
  - 14 Puts on
  - 15 Train unit
  - 16 Watch
  - 18 Dressing part
  - 19 Catch in the act
  - 20 Rent out
  - 21 Carolina bird
  - 23 Happy colleague
  - 25 Spot
  - 27 Agreeable answer
  - 28 Sir's counter-part
  - 30 Nick and Nora's dog
  - 33 Fuming
  - 34 Tear
  - 36 Corn core
  - 37 Book extras
  - 39 Wheel part
  - 40 Soda flavor

## DOWN

- 1 Kremlin setting
- 2 Bakery treat
- 3 Morticia's creator
- 4 Baseball's Ron
- 5 Hot crime
- 6 "Extra!" shouter
- 7 Suit to —
- 8 Linus's creator
- 9 Jimmy Stewart film
- 10 Start
- 17 Naughty head
- 22 Homer's neighbor
- 24 Casserole bit
- 26 Heartfelt
- 28 Coarse-spun cotton
- 29 Central
- 31 Pate cover
- 32 Convent
- 33 — Carta
- 35 Cookout spot
- 38 Fencing sword
- 42 Bother



10-20

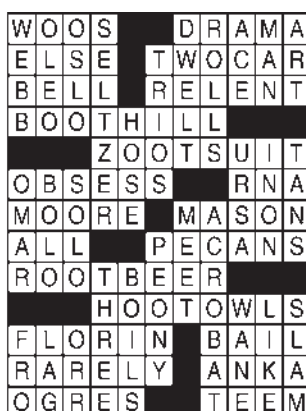
AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## 10-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

OMTJT UJT ZHJT OMXIYF XI  
MTUWTI UIB TUJOM, MHJUOXH,  
OMUI UJT BJTUZO HQ XI VHNJ  
RMXKHFHRMV. — FMUDTERTUJT,  
"MUZKTO"

**Cryptoquote:** HOME IS NOT WHERE YOU WERE BORN; HOME IS WHERE ALL YOUR ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE STOP. — NAGUIB MAHFOUZ



# Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 14 - 26 2025

|     |    |                                                             | ARR                     | DEPT                    | BERTH       | CALLS       |
|-----|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| TUE | 14 | CARNIVAL HORIZON                                            | 09.00                   | 23.00                   | C           | 1           |
| WED | 15 | SERENADE OF THE SEAS<br>FREEWINDS                           | 08.00<br>06.00          | 23.00<br>****           | C<br>E      | 1<br>1      |
| FRI | 17 | CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE                                        | 07.00                   | 17.00                   | C           | 1           |
| SUN | 19 | NORWEGIAN ESCAPE<br>CARIBBEAN PRINCESS<br>FREEWINDS - Dept. | 07.00<br>09.00<br>****  | 17.00<br>22.00<br>22.30 | B<br>C<br>E | 1<br>1<br>- |
| TUE | 21 | SERENADE OF THE SEAS                                        | 08.00                   | 23.00                   | C           | 1           |
| WED | 22 | RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS<br>OASIS OF THE SEAS<br>FREEWINDS      | 08.00<br>07.00<br>06.00 | 23.00<br>16.00<br>****  | C<br>I<br>E | 1<br>1<br>1 |
| THU | 23 | EURODAM                                                     | 08.00                   | 17.00                   | C           | 1           |
| SUN | 26 | FREEWINDS - Dept.                                           | ****                    | 22.30                   | E           | -           |

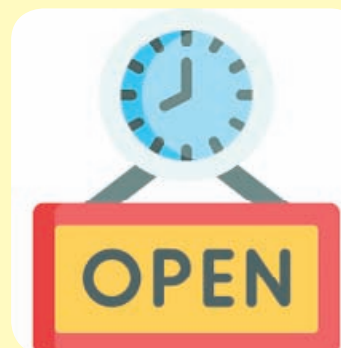
# Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



## Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



## Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



## Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

# SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

## King Classic Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 5 |   | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
|   | 3 |   | 6 | 5 | 9 |   |   | 1 |
|   |   |   | 2 | 7 |   | 6 | 5 | 3 |
|   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   | 9 |   |
| 1 |   |   | 7 |   | 5 |   | 8 | 4 |
| 2 | 8 |   | 3 | 9 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 2 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   | 8 |
| 7 | 4 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
|   |   | 3 | 9 |   |   | 4 |   | 2 |

Difficulty: ★★

10/14

## Answer to previous puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 |

Difficulty: ★

10/13

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# Marc Maron ends his podcast with final guest Barack Obama after 16 years and nearly 1,700 episodes

By ANDREW DALTON

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Barack Obama helped Marc Maron lock the gates on his podcast Monday, returning to the show for the final episode after 16 years and more than 1,600 episodes.

The former president gave new status to "WTF With Marc Maron" and to podcasts in general when he visited Maron's Los Angeles garage studio while still in office a decade ago. Obama brought the 62-year-old host, stand-up comic and actor to his Washington office for the last interview.

Obama asked the initial questions.

"How are you feeling about this whole thing?" he said, "transition, moving on from this thing that has been one of the defining parts of your career and your life?"

"I feel OK," Maron answered. "I feel like I'm sort of ready for the break, but there is sort of a fear there, of what do I do now? I'm busy. But, not unlike your job ... I've got a lot of people who over the last 16 years have grown to rely on me."

Maron laughed as he acknowledged he was comparing his podcasting gig to the presidency.

"I think it's pretty similar," Obama said.

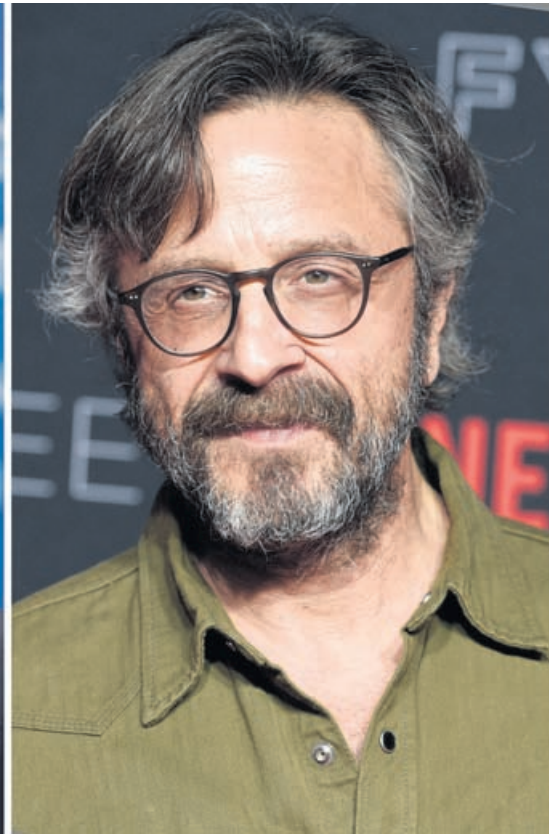
The identity of the guest was not revealed until the episode dropped, and fans had been speculating. Obama was a popular guess, both because of his relationship with "WTF" and because Maron in an interview with Variety in July said Obama would be his ideal final conversation.

The host explained the decision in an unusually brief and straightforward introduction to the episode.

"It became clear that the guest we needed to have was singular," Maron said, "in that he could address the importance of this being our final episode, but also address how we move through the world we're



President Barack Obama appears during his final presidential news conference at the White House in Washington on Jan. 18, 2017, left, and Marc Maron appears at a promotional event for his series "Glow" in Los Angeles on May 30, 2018.



living in, as frightening as it is."

Maron asked Obama for advice on moving on from your life's biggest job.

"You've still got a couple of chapters left," Obama said. "Don't rush into what the next thing is. Take a beat. Take some satisfaction looking backwards."

After a much talk on the state of the world, Obama brought it back around to Maron's farewell.

"I think we're going to be OK," Obama said. "I think

part of the reason you had such a big fan base during this 16-year run is there was a core decency to you and the conversations that you had."

Maron avoided sentimental farewell talk during the episode he got that out of the way on Thursday in his penultimate episode, where talked directly and emotionally to his listeners. "I'm grateful to have been part of your lives," he said. "We've been through a lot of stuff together. A lot of

breakups. Death. Cats. The world." □

Associated Press



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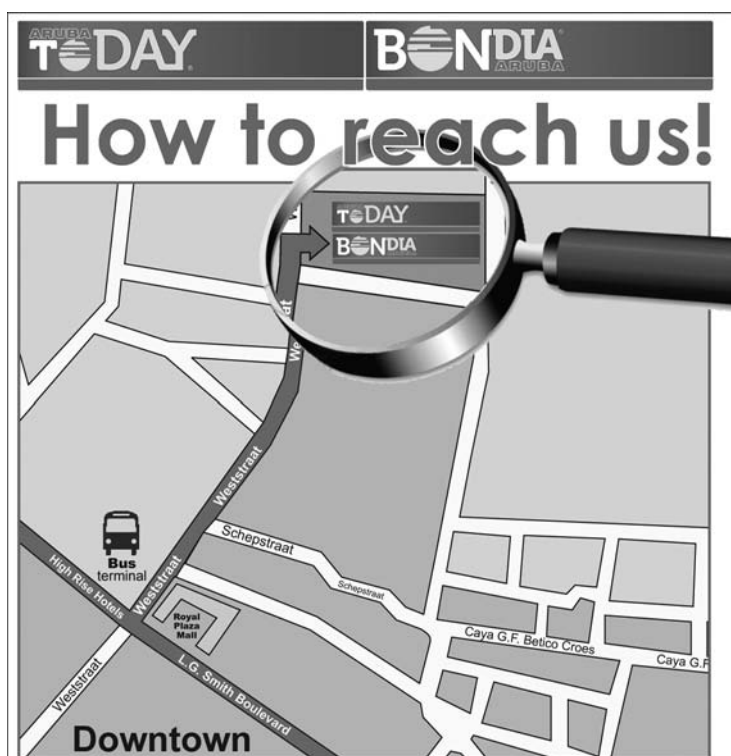
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## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Oduber: Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 5794

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Police         | 100      |
| Oranjestad     | 527 3140 |
| Noord          | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz      | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas    | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141    |
| Ambulancia     | 911      |
| Fire Dept.     | 115      |
| Red Cross      | 582 2219 |

### TAXI SERVICES

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Taxi Tas         | 587 5900 |
| Prof. Taxi       | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S.      | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv.    | 280 2828 |

### TRAVEL INFO

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Aruba Airport     | 524 2424 |
| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca           | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue          | 588 2244 |
| Surinam           | 582 7896 |

### AID FOUNDATIONS

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Aruba Food Bank                       | Tel. 588 0002 |
| FAVI- Visually Impaired               | Tel. 582 5051 |
| Alcoholics Anonymous                  | Tel. 736 2952 |
| Narcotics Anonymous                   | Tel. 583 8989 |
| Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional | Tel. 583 5400 |
| Centre for Diabetes                   | Tel. 524 8888 |
| Child Abuse Prevention                | Tel. 582 4433 |

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# Uncertainty over the economy and tariffs forces many retailers to be cautious on holiday hiring

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO

AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Uncertainty over the economy and tariffs is forcing retailers to pull back or delay plans to hire seasonal workers who pack orders at distribution centers, serve shoppers at stores and build holiday displays during the most important selling season of the year.

American Christmas LLC, which creates elaborate holiday installations for commercial properties such as New York's Rockefeller Center and Radio City Music Hall, plans to hire 220 temporary workers and is ramping up recruitment nearly two months later than usual, CEO Dan Casterella said. Last year, it took on 300 people during its busy period.

The main reason? The company wants to offset its tariff bill, which Casterella expects to be as big as \$1.5 million this year, more than double last year's \$600,000. "The issue is if you overstaff and then you underperform, it's too late," Casterella said. "I think everyone's more mindful now than ever."

**Holiday hiring could fall to 2009 levels**

Online behemoth Amazon Inc. said Monday it intends to hire 250,000 full-, part-time and seasonal workers for the crucial shopping



An Amazon same-day delivery fulfillment shipping center is in Woodland Park, New Jersey, on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023.

Associated Press

period, the same level as a year ago.

But job placement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas forecasts overall holiday hiring for the last three months of the year will likely fall under 500,000 positions. That's fewer than last year's 543,000 level and also marks the smallest seasonal gain in 16 years when retailers hired 495,800 temporary workers, the firm said.

Among other companies cutting holiday payrolls: Radial, an e-commerce company that powers deliveries for roughly 120 companies

like Lands' End and Cole Haan and operates 20 fulfillment sites.

It plans to hire 6,500 workers, fewer than last year's 7,000, and is waiting to the last minute to ramp up hiring for some of its clients, chief human resources officer Sabrina Wnorowski, said.

Bath & Body Works, based in Reynoldsburg, Ohio, said it plans to hire 32,000 workers, below the 32,700 a year ago.

"We saw real strong signals that there's been a cooling in the labor market, even

beyond what our expectations were in the first nine months of the year," Challenger's senior vice president Andy Challenger said. Challenger also noted companies are using artificial intelligence bots to replace some workers, particularly those working in call centers. And he's also seeing companies hiring workers closer to when they need them.

Meanwhile, the list of companies staying mum about their specific holiday hiring goals keeps growing. Target Corp., UPS and Ma-

cy's are declining to offer figures, a departure from years past.

**Holiday hiring: the first clues to what's in store for spending**

Retailers' hiring plans mark the first clues to what's in store for the U.S. holiday shopping season and come as the U.S. job market has lost momentum this year, partly because Trump's trade wars have created uncertainty that's paralyzing managers trying to make hiring decisions.

The Labor Department reported in early September that U.S. employers companies, government agencies and nonprofits added just 22,000 jobs in August, down from 79,000 in July and well below the 80,000 that economists had expected.

The government shutdown, which started Oct. 1 and has delayed the release of economic reports, could worsen the job picture.

In an attempt to exert more pressure on Democratic lawmakers as the government shutdown continues, the White House budget office said Friday mass firings of federal workers have started.

Analysts will be closely monitoring the shutdown's impact on spending. For now, many retailers say that consumers, while resilient, are selective. □

## OpenAI partners with Broadcom to design its own AI chips

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — OpenAI said Monday it is working with chipmaker Broadcom to design its



The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen with random binary data, March 9, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

own artificial intelligence computer chips.

The two California companies didn't disclose the financial terms of the deal but said they will start deploying the new racks of customized "AI accelerators" late next year.

It's the latest big deal between OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT, and the companies building the chips and data centers required to power AI.

OpenAI in recent weeks has announced partnerships with chipmakers Nvidia and AMD that will supply the AI startup with specialized chips for running its AI

systems. OpenAI has also made big deals with Oracle, CoreWeave and other companies developing the data centers where those chips are housed.

Many of the deals rely on circular financing, in which the companies are both investing in OpenAI and supplying the world's most valuable startup with technology, fueling concerns about an AI bubble. OpenAI doesn't yet turn a profit but says its flagship chatbot now has more than 800 million weekly users.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said the work to develop a custom chip began more

than a year ago.

"Developing our own accelerators adds to the broader ecosystem of partners all building the capacity required to push the frontier of AI to provide benefits to all humanity," he said in a statement.

Broadcom shares surged more than 9% on Monday after the morning announcement.

Broadcom CEO Hock Tan said in a statement that "we are thrilled to co-develop and deploy 10 gigawatts of next generation accelerators and network systems to pave the way for the future of AI." □



# How Denny Hamlin's emotional win at Las Vegas has him back in title contention

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Denny Hamlin has been NASCAR's main character this season, from his lawsuit against NASCAR and his weekly, opinion-laden podcasts to the defining role he played in setting the final eight drivers in the playoff field. He could be the busiest driver in the Cup Series; he also welcomed the birth of his third child in June, an occasion that caused him to skip NASCAR's race in Mexico City.

Through it all, he has prevailed.

At Las Vegas Motor Speedway on Sunday, he became the first driver to lock up a berth in the championship-deciding season finale his first appearance in the winner-take-all race since 2021 with his series-best sixth win of the season. It was win No. 60 for Hamlin, which was always his career goal, and cemented him as not only the winningest driver in Joe Gibbs Racing history but also for Toyota.

It was the most emotional anyone has ever seen Hamlin in his two-plus decades racing in NASCAR. His 75-year-old father, a Virginia native who mortgaged his home multiple times, signed up for every



Denny Hamlin celebrates in victory lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, in Las Vegas.

credit card possible and nearly bankrupted the family trying to get his son to the top level of racing. Hamlin wanted No. 60 for his father. A three-time Daytona 500 winner, he is considered the greatest driver to never win a championship and now wants to give a Cup title to his dad. He was in tears the final three laps, emotional on his radio on his cool-down lap and needed to compose himself on the frontstretch as he collected his checkered flag.

"I'm probably softer than

what I put off. I maybe shed a tear during a love story on a movie or something if it's a really emotional moment. I'll never let my kids see it. But I do have feelings. I know it's hard to believe," Hamlin said. "I just know how much work it took for this to happen. It didn't just happen. It wasn't just luck. It just was so gratifying because of all the things I talked about.

"Maybe y'all played recreational sports as a kid, had that game-winning moment, but it's just so big for me personally because this

is what I do, this is what I'm paid to do," he continued. "It will take a few days for it all to sink in. I knew there was no chance I was holding it back, no chance. Just let it go."

It's been a tough month for Hamlin alongside his father's health woes:

He spun JGR teammate Ty Gibbs at New Hampshire in a playoff race when he believed Gibbs, a non-title contender and grandson of the team owner, should not have been racing him so hard.

He raced Bubba Wallace,

who drives for Hamlin at 23XI Racing (the team co-owned by Michael Jordan that is suing NASCAR), too hard in the closing laps at Kansas in pursuit of No. 60. The battle cost Hamlin the win and Wallace a spot in the round of eight of the playoffs.

Last week at Charlotte, his last-lap pass of Ross Chastain prevented Chastain from eliminating Joey Logano from the round of eight. Logano is the reigning Cup champion and winner of two of the last three titles. Hamlin complained he didn't know the points picture and NASCAR is now eyeing all playoff drivers for possible race manipulation.

Hamlin has tuned it all out in a remarkable way.

"Probably nobody has more going on in their life than Denny. But he has an amazing ability I think to kind of handle all of it, all the stuff that's going on in his life right now," Gibbs said.

"Most of us would say how does he handle that? I'm probably one of those."

Chris Gayle, who is in his first season as crew chief for Hamlin and has never advanced to the championship race, says Hamlin has a remarkable ability to compartmentalize. □

## Jonathan Toews reaches another milestone in his NHL comeback by recording 1st point since 2023

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jonathan Toews reached another milestone in his NHL comeback on Monday, recording his first point in nearly 2 1/2 years.

Toews helped set up Nino Niederreiter's power-play goal at the New York Islanders in the Winnipeg Jets' third game of the season and picked up a secondary assist. Toews last got on the scoresheet April 14, 2023, in his final game with Chicago before stepping away from hockey because of health issues.

"He's worked hard to come back and feel good, and I think that's the most important thing is he's feeling good," long-time Blackhawks teammate and current Detroit Red Wings winger Patrick Kane said last month. "I'm really happy that

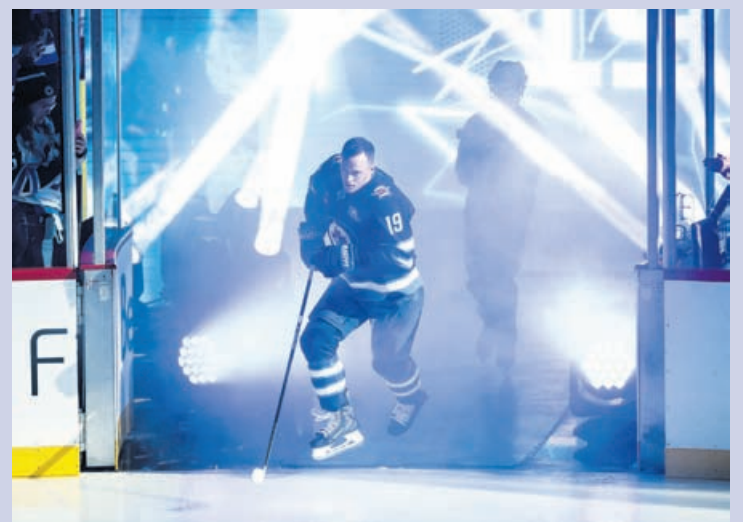
he's back."

Toews, now 37, chose his hometown team to make his return after missing the past two seasons because of the effects of chronic immune response syndrome and long COVID.

Before that, Toews captained Chicago to the Stanley Cup three times, in 2010, '13 and '15. He won the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP during the franchise's first championship run since 1961 and in 2016 was chosen as one of the top 100 players in the league's 100-year history.

Toews also helped Canada win two Olympic gold medals.

Those tournaments and world championships are the only times he and Kane have faced off against each other since breaking in together with the Blackhawks in '07. □



Winnipeg Jets' Jonathan Toews (19) is introduced prior to NHL hockey game action against the Dallas Stars in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025.

Associated Press



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## All the talk about the decline of the Kansas City Chiefs may have been premature

By **ROB MAADDI**  
AP Pro Football Writer

All the talk about the decline of the Kansas City Chiefs was apparently premature.

With Patrick Mahomes doing his magic and a stout defense, the Chiefs can beat anybody.

A convincing 30-17 victory over the Detroit Lions in front of a national audience on Sunday night lifted the Chiefs to 3-3.

They've got a long way to go but they're a much better team than the one that started 0-2. Critics were wondering if it was the end of Kansas City's dynasty.

But the Chiefs just need to get healthy and work out some kinks.

Mahomes and the offense have regained their mojo and will get a boost when wide receiver Rashee Rice is back from a six-game suspension next week. Xavier Worthy's return from injury already energized the passing attack. The offensive line is settling in and



**Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) scores on a 1-yard run during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, in Kansas City, Mo.**

Associated Press

Jaylon Moore was exceptional filling in for Josh Simmons at left tackle against Detroit.

"We're not afraid to go up against anybody," Mahomes said.

Defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo's unit shut down Detroit's dynamic of-

fense, holding Jared Goff and Co. to just 17 points and 297 yards.

"I'm disappointed because it's been a long time since you're watching somebody kneel it two times in front of you and it's not even close. You're down two scores. We got worked

pretty good," Lions coach Dan Campbell said. "I felt like this was a game where we needed to score 30 points at least. We weren't able to get the points required to give ourselves a chance. We needed to show up and we weren't able to do it." The Lions (4-

2) lost for the first time since Week 1 against Green Bay. They have a tough schedule coming up with home games against the Buccaneers (5-1) and Vikings (3-2) followed by road games against the Commanders (3-2) and Eagles (4-2).

Both teams won 15 games last season and this was expected to be a potential Super Bowl preview. It still could be but they've got plenty of work ahead.

The Chiefs trail the Chargers and Broncos by one game as they pursue a 10th straight AFC West title and fourth Lombardi trophy in seven years. An impressive victory over Detroit has them heading in the right direction.

### Missing Lamar

Without Lamar Jackson, the Baltimore Ravens have no chance.

The three-time All-Pro and two-time NFL MVP missed his second straight game. The Ravens managed just one field goal in a 17-3 loss to the Los Angeles Rams. □



**Philadelphia Eagles' Za'Darius Smith celebrates sacking Denver Broncos quarterback Bo Nix with teammate Eagles defensive tackle Moro Ojomo during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025, in Philadelphia.**

Associated Press

## Za'Darius Smith abruptly retires after 5 games with the Eagles

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Za'Darius Smith abruptly announced his retirement Monday, five games into his eighth NFL season and first with the Philadelphia Eagles. The 33-year-old pass rusher called it a career in a post on Instagram. The Eagles lost Thursday night at the New York Giants to fall to 4-2 and play at Minnesota on Sunday.

Smith signed with the reigning Super Bowl champions the day after their Week 1 win

against Dallas. He spent last season with Cleveland and Detroit.

"As I step into the newest season of my life, please know this game has meant the world to me," Smith said. "The lessons learned on and off the field will stay with me forever."

Smith was a three-time Pro Bowl selection, in 2019 and '20 with Green Bay and again in 2022 with Minnesota. He had 10 tackles in five games with the Eagles. □